

## ***REQUEST FOR INFORMATION***

“RFI”

Date: November 1, 2004

Title: Midtown Tunnel Corridor Project (MTCP)

Issuing/Using Agency: Department of Transportation  
Innovative Project Delivery Division  
1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking Statements of Interest (SOI) from private entities (respondents) that are qualified and experienced with design, construction, improvement, maintenance, and/or operation of limited-access highway facilities and tunnels. VDOT will consider responses to this Request for Information (RFI), and determine whether to solicit conceptual proposals under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995, as amended (the PPTA), for constructing all or part(s) of expansion of the Midtown Tunnel Corridor (Route 58 under the Elizabeth River and approach roadways) in the Cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth in Virginia. VDOT is considering future procurement with competitive negotiation procedures under the PPTA because of the potential for risk sharing, non-public funding, and other economic benefits which would not otherwise be available through a competitive bidding process.

### **II. BACKGROUND**

The proposed MTCP is located between the Interchange of Martin Luther King (Route 58) and Western Freeways in Portsmouth and Brambleton Avenue in Norfolk as indicated on the attached vicinity map (Attachment A). The project consists of the construction of limited-access highway facilities and a new tunnel to provide for additional travel lanes linking Route 58 and the Western Freeway in Portsmouth to Brambleton Avenue in Norfolk and the reconstruction of lanes to support a 4-lane tunnel crossing.

According to the 2004 Hampton Roads Long Range Plan the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) through the existing Midtown Tunnel is 38,000, and the projected 2026 ADT with an additional tunnel (assuming 2 lanes for each tunnel) is 64,000.

The MTCP was originally a part of the Pinner's Point Interchange Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). However, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) excluded the MTCP from its Record of Decision because it was not in a conforming transportation plan. The MTCP is currently not included in the Hampton Roads Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) or VDOT's Six Year Improvement Program (SYP).

If Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) participation is anticipated, VDOT would either complete the NEPA requirements, or consider public-private partnership approaches that advance the efficient delivery of transportation projects in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, before issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) under the PPTA.

### **III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSES**

Respondents should submit a concise SOI not exceeding four pages that demonstrates a clear understanding of the issues associated with this project and communicates the respondent's ability to complete the scope of work as required. The SOI should include the following:

- 1) A brief statement of interest/no interest in pursuing such a project with VDOT;
- 2) Identify topics or issues regarding the MTCP not addressed by this RFI that Respondents believe are important to address in any future RFP and offer input on those topics or issues; and
- 3) A list of additional information that would assist your firm in its evaluation of interest for future participation in this project.

VDOT is not requesting a proposal, detailed plans, budgetary information or proprietary information in response to this RFI.

SOI's shall be returned by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Friday, January 14, 2005, by mail to:

Virginia Department of Transportation  
Attention: Daniele J. Noland, Project Manager  
Innovative Project Delivery Division  
1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Responses are to be sealed in mailing envelopes bearing the respondent's name, address, and the words "MTCP Statement of Interest" clearly written on the outside.

Respondents may call Daniele J. Noland, Project Manager at 804/786-6929 for additional information.

VDOT plans to complete its evaluation of the feasibility of the MTCP for procurement under the PPTA by March 1, 2005.

#### **IV. VDOT's RIGHTS RESERVED**

VDOT reserves all rights available to it by Federal and State law. Moreover, if a PPTA solicitation results from this RFI and the resulting responses, respondents to this RFI are hereby notified that all information, documentation, and any specific content or approaches included in RFI responses may be used in the resulting solicitation. Therefore, do not submit any copyrighted, proprietary or confidential information.

Ownership of all data, material, and documentation originated and submitted to VDOT, pursuant to the RFI, shall belong exclusively to VDOT and be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

The intent of this RFI is to seek SOI's only; therefore, responses will not be considered to be a binding bid or proposal. If VDOT decides to solicit an RFP, those parties who choose not to respond to this RFI will not be denied participation in the RFP. If VDOT decides to advance the MTCP with a different scope than presented in the SOI's received from respondents of this RFI, respondents will not be denied participation to the RFP.

Unsolicited proposals for advancement of the MTCP, or any similar project, under the PPTA will not be accepted from the date of issuance of this RFI until the completion of the evaluation of the SOI's. Any unsolicited proposals will be returned to sender.

Under no circumstances shall the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner (Commissioner), or VDOT be liable for, or reimburse, the costs incurred by respondents, whether or not VDOT, in its sole discretion, chooses to solicit proposals under the PPTA for the MTCP.

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